Preservation of wild cat population

3577. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent census in Gir Sanctuary has revealed a sharp rise in lion population, if so, to what extent, indicating the comparative figures for the last two censuses;

(b) the increase or decrease registered in respect of lion, tigers, other wild cats in other sanctuaries and the reasons therefor indicating population figures for three consecutive censuses; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and promote tiger/lion/wild cats population and to prevent poaching?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Lion is found only in Gir Ecosystem in Gujarat. Recent census conducted has revealed a marginal increase in lion population. The number of lions during three consecutive censuses are as follows:

Species	1990	1995	2000
Lion	284	305	310-320

The population of tigers and leopards in various sanctuaries are not compiled and collated at the level of the Central Government. However, State-wise figures for both the species during three consecutive censuses are given in Statement I and II respectively. (*See* below)

(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect and prevent poaching of wild cats are as follows:

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level:

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-Development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level

(i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MoU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Statement-I

Preservation of Wild Cat Population

Population of Tiger

Sl. No.	Name of State	Tiger		
		1989	1993	1997
1.	Andhra Pradesh	235	197	171
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	135	180	180
3.	Assam	376	325	458
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	157	137	103
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	2	3	6
6.	Gujarat	9	5	1
7.	Karnataka	257	305	350
8.	Kerala	45	57	73
9.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	985	912	927
10.	Maharashtra	417	276	257
11.	Meghalaya	34	53	63
12.	Mizoram	18	28	12
13.	Nagaland*	104	83	83
14.	Orissa	243	226	194
15.	Rajasthan	99	64	58
16.	Sikkim*	4	2	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	95	97	62
18.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	735	465	475
19.	West Bengal	353	335	361
	TOTAL:	4334	3750	3836

* The census figure quoted by these States during 1993 has been incorporated in 1997 also.

Statement II

Preservation of Wild Cat Population

Population of Leopard

Sl. No.	Name of State	Leopard		
		1989	1993	1997
1.	Andhra Pradesh	301	152	138
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	121	98	98
3.	Assam*	123	246	246
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand*	134	203	203
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	18	31	25
6.	Gujarat	702	772	832
7.	Haryana*	19	25	25
8.	Himachal Pradesh*	199	821	821
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	—	—
10.	Karnataka*	283	455	620
11.	Kerala*	27	16	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	2036	1700	1851
13.	Maharashtra	580	417	431
14.	Mizoram	38	49	28
15.	Nagaland*	72	—	—
16.	Orissa	279	378	422
17.	Rajasthan	461	475	474
18.	Sikkim	1	—	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	119	138	110
20.	Tripura*	37	18	18
21.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	1095	711	1412
22.	West Bengal*	108	108	108
23.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	10	15	15
	TOTAL:	6767	6828	7893

* The census figure quoted by these State during 1993 has been incorporated in 1997 also.